



WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**TERESE BERCEAU**  
76TH DISTRICT

June 24, 2011

The Honorable Scott Walker  
Governor of Wisconsin  
Room 115 East, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

HAND-DELIVERED

Dear Governor Walker:

I am writing to express my concern about the elimination of funding for Planned Parenthood clinics in the budget currently awaiting your signature. I respectfully request you to use your line item veto to restore funding for these comprehensive health care centers.

As you know, state and federal funding will be eliminated for nine Wisconsin Planned Parenthood health care centers under this budget. Without this funding, I fear that Planned Parenthood clinics across our state will risk closure. Should this fear become reality, tens of thousands of women will lose access to important medical care such as cervical and breast cancer screening, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, and birth control. Just last year, in fact, Planned Parenthood treated 12,061 uninsured women in nine counties.

The reason given for the elimination of this funding is that Planned Parenthood provides abortion services. But the abortion issue has no place in the consideration of this funding. Taxpayer funding of abortions is illegal. Abortion care is not provided in any Planned Parenthood clinic that receives public funds. While cutting funding for these clinics has nothing to do with abortion, then, it has everything to do with denying preventative health care to thousands of Wisconsin women.

It has been suggested that these women could obtain similar medical care elsewhere if Planned Parenthood clinics close. However, this is patently not true. I contacted the health departments in the nine counties that will be affected and I asked if they could indeed provide the same type and level of care to Planned Parenthood patients if these clinics close. The answer I received was a resounding "NO." Planned Parenthood serves as a partner in providing health care to communities; without this funding and without these clinics, it will be impossible to provide the health care that Wisconsin women need and deserve.

Throughout your 2010 campaign, you touted the high quality of Wisconsin's health care system. Unfortunately, the budget that you have in front of you will destroy the partnership



-- page two --

among health care providers and will severely diminish – if not eliminate completely – the health care available to women throughout our state.

For the sake of the health of women throughout Wisconsin – particularly the 12,000 uninsured women whose only place to obtain health care is a Planned Parenthood clinic that will face a serious risk of closing – I respectfully request you to use your line item veto to restore funding for Planned Parenthood. By doing so, you would restore the ability of women statewide to have any health care at all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terese Berceau". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terese Berceau  
State Representative  
76<sup>th</sup> Assembly District